CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A method of selectively compressing data packets comprising:

2   bypassing a compression process responsive to detecting a first marker in

3   the data packets; and

4   resuming the compression process responsive to detecting a second

5   marker in the data packets.

1   2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first marker indicates that data

2   subsequent to the first marker is compressed.

1   3. The method of claim 2 wherein the second marker indicates that data

2   previous to the second marker is compressed.

1   4. The method of claim 3 wherein the first marker is a predetermined string of

2   data.

1   5. The method of claim 4 wherein the first marker is a predetermined text

2   string of data.

1   6. The method of claim 5 wherein the compression process compresses the

2 data packets prior to sending the data packets over a network.

1   7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

2   encrypting the data packets prior to sending the data packets over the

3   network.

1   8. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

2   resuming the compression process after a timeout occurs.

1   9. A method of processing data packets comprising:

2   searching a first data packet for a first marker that indicates that subsequent

3   data is already compressed;

4   forwarding the first data packet without trying to re-compress it, if the first

5   marker was found; and

6   compressing and forwarding the first data packet, if the first marker was not

7   found.

1   10. The method of claim 9, wherein searching the first data packet for the first

2 marker is performed by looking for a predetermined text string in the first data

3 packet.

1   11. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

2   forwarding one or more subsequent data packets without trying to re-

3   compress them, if the first marker was found; and

4   compressing and forwarding the one or more subsequent data packets, if the

5   first marker was not found.

1   12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   searching for a second marker that indicates that data following the

3   second marker is not compressed; and

4   compressing and forwarding a second set of one or more subsequent data

5   packets after finding the second marker, wherein each of the second

6   set of one or more subsequent data packets are searched for the first

7   marker.

1   13. The method of claim 12, wherein searching for the second marker is

2 performed by looking for a second predetermined text string.

1   14. A method of selectively compressing data packets comprising:

2   searching a data packet for a first string of data;

3   bypassing a compression process responsive to detecting the first string

4   of data;

5   searching for a second string of data; and

6   resuming the compression process responsive to detecting the second

7   string of data.

1   15. The method of claim 14, wherein a string search engine is used to search

2   the data packet for the first string of data.

1   16. The method of claim 14, wherein a string search engine of a network

2   processor is used to search the data packet for the first string of data.

1   17. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

2   searching a subsequent data packet for a third string of data;

3   bypassing the compression process responsive to detecting the third

4   string of data;

5   searching for a fourth string of data; and

6   resuming the compression process responsive to detecting the fourth

7   string of data.

1   18. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

2   resuming the compression process responsive to a timeout event.

1   19. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

2   testing whether a current data packet is compressed responsive to a

3   timeout event.

1   20. An article comprising a computer-accessible medium which stores computer-

2   executable instructions, the instructions causing a computer to:

3   search a data packet for a first string of data;

4   bypass a compression process responsive to detecting the first string of data;

5   search for a second string of data; and

6   resume the compression process responsive to detecting the second string of

7   data.

1   21. The article of claim 20, the article further comprises instructions to:

2   search a subsequent data packet for a third string of data;

3   bypass the compression process responsive to detecting the third string of

4   data;

5   search for a fourth string of data; and

6   resume the compression process responsive to detecting the fourth string of

7   data.

1   22. The article of claim 20, wherein the compression process compresses data

2   packets prior to the data packets being forwarded across a network.

1   23. The article of claim 22, wherein the data packets are encrypted before being

2   forwarded across the network.

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